

draftsman requesting acceptance and entry of the corrected sheet.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to more clearly define Applicant's invention. Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Drissner in view of Grout. In this rejection, Drissner was deemed to disclose Applicant's invention defined in claims 1-5 with the exception of the configuration of the claimed jaw operation cam and its interaction with the jaw. The Grout reference is relied on a showing a frusto-conical cam which closes the jaws when advanced. It was proposed that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to configure the device of Drissner to operate in the manner shown by Grout.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. It would be instructive to compare Drissner with Applicant's claimed clamping device. Drissner's chuck mechanism is used to precisely hold a workpiece in a lathe while Applicant's device serves to clamp a sprue of a casting tree for cutting the various components from the tree. Precise positioning is not required in Applicant's claimed device.

In Applicant's device, the cam means is on the piston rod which is positioned within an elongate guide. The elongate clamping jaws are positioned exteriorly of the guide. The pivot connection for the jaws is located exteriorly of the guide. No such arrangement is shown in Drissner, Grout or any other reference known to Applicant. In Drissner, the jaws are rigidly attached to rocker arm assemblies which are pivotally connected to the chuck body. The rocker arm assemblies are positioned within depressions in the chuck body. A wiper means is provided for preventing debris from entering the chuck cavity.

The rocker arms and jaws of Drissner must be positioned

within the recesses in order for the chuck cavity to be maintained free of debris. The clamping jaws of Grout are also located in recesses in the chuck body. Further the pivot connections between the jaws and chuck body in Grout is not located exteriorly of the guide in manner of Applicant's invention as defined in claims 1-5. Accordingly, claims 1-5 are deemed allowable over Drissner and Grout for the reasons outlined above.

Claim 6 was rejected as unpatentable over Drissner and Grout and further in view of Buck. It was proposed that it would have been obvious under 35 USC 103 to one of ordinary skill in art to configure the jaws of Drissner and Grout to have rectangular configuration and flat clamping surfaces in view of Buck. The clamp of Buck is intended to clamp elongate workpieces (not casting trees). However, Applicant fails to see how one would consider the jaws of Buck to be rectangular (see Figs. 3-5). Further, in any event, Buck does not show rectangular jaws located and pivoted to a guide exteriorly of the guide. Accordingly claim 6 is deemed allowable along with claims 1-5.

Claim 7 has been amended and claim 8 cancelled. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art over Tebbe in view of Grout. It was proposed that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in art to provide the camming ring of Tebbe with slots in view of Grout. It was also proposed that jaws of Tebbe or Grout could be provided with recess in view of Buck.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. While the claimed invention and the Tebbe reference disclose rotary clamping devices for holding casting trees during a cutting operation, neither Buck, Grout, or Kuchenbrod disclose such a clamp. None show a camming ring. The

recess in the clamping jaws defines a pair of laterally aligned clamping teeth, while those in Buck are axially offset for gripping an elongate workpiece. Applicant does not believe that Kuchenbrod would teach one of ordinary skill in the art to reconstruct the Tebbe clamp as proposed. Accordingly, claims 7 & 9 are deemed allowable over Tebbe, Grout, Buck, and Kuchenbrod.

In view of these remarks, claims 1-7 and 9 are believed to be allowable and an early notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal service as first class main in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Box Non-Fee Amendment, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 06, 2000.

Herman H. Bains January 06, 2000.
Name of person mailing Herman H. Bains Date